



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 21-1443, **Agenda Item #:** 80.

3/4/2021

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### **Posting Language**

Conduct a public hearing and approve an ordinance adopting temporary reductions to retail water rates, authorizing the director of Austin Water to temporarily use historical average customer water use for determining retail customer bills following the recent February 2021 winter storm, exclude water use caused by the effects of the February 2021 winter storm from retail wastewater averaging calculations, administratively adjust water bills for retail customers who sustained leaking or burst pipes or otherwise sustained unusually high water bills due to the recent February 2021 winter storm, waiving the emergency water service repair cut off/on fee, and declaring an emergency.

### **Lead Department**

Austin Water.

### **Fiscal Note**

A fiscal note is attached.

### **Prior Council Action:**

Council Resolution 20210225-006.

### **For More Information:**

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office at 512-974-2991 or [AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov](mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov).

### **Additional Backup Information:**

This ordinance is in response to direction within Council Resolution 20210225-006 to the City Manager and Austin Water staff to implement water utility bill relief adjustments to mitigate adverse utility bill impacts caused by the recent extreme winter weather.

The proposed ordinance for temporary rate and fee adjustments will provide bill relief for customers impacted by the February winter storm and be in effect until April 26, 2021. Wastewater averaging for the current winter averaging period will exclude unusually high water consumption caused by the effects of the February 2021 winter storm. Austin Water will temporarily use historical averages for determining retail water bills through March 18, 2021 and, for the residential tiered rates, adjust the following for the period between March 19, 2021 and April 26, 2021:

- Water Residential Volumetric Charge Tiers 3, 4, 5 to \$0.01
- Water Residential Fixed Fee Tiers 3, 4, 5 to \$3.55
- Waive Water Emergency Repair Cut Off/On Fee

Water Residential Volumetric Charge per 1,000 gallons of total billed water consumption for the billing period	Current		Proposed	
	Non-CAP	CAP	Non-CAP	CAP
Tier 1 (0 - 2000 Gallons)	\$2.89	\$1.23	\$2.89	\$1.23
Tier 2 (2,001 - 6,000 Gallons)	\$4.81	\$3.65	\$4.81	\$3.65
Tier 3 (6,001 - 11,000 Gallons)	\$8.34	\$6.00	\$0.01	\$0.01
Tier 4 (11,001 - 20,000 Gallons)	\$12.70	\$11.51	\$0.01	\$0.01
Tier 5 (20,001 - Over Gallons)	\$14.21	\$14.21	\$0.01	\$0.01

Water Residential Tiered Fixed Fee based on total billed water consumption for the billing period	Current	Proposed
Tier 1 (0 - 2000 Gallons)	\$1.25	\$1.25
Tier 2 (2,001 - 6,000 Gallons)	\$3.55	\$3.55
Tier 3 (6,001 - 11,000 Gallons)	\$9.25	\$3.55
Tier 4 (11,001 - 20,000 Gallons)	\$29.75	\$3.55
Tier 5 (20,001 - Over Gallons)	\$29.75	\$3.55

Water Emergency Repair Cut Off/On Fee	Current	Proposed
	\$31.25	\$0.00

In addition, the proposed ordinance will exclude any winter storm customer bill adjustment from Austin Water's consideration of its regular programs for leak and high water bill relief that allow only one leak adjustment every 12-months and only one high-water bill adjustment every 24-months.